

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks and amendments. Claims 22, 24, 26, 28, 51-53, and 55-58 are amended. Claims 1-21, 30-50, and 59-70 are canceled. Accordingly, claims 22-29 and 51-58 are pending in the application.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 59-70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for being non-statutory subject matter. Claims 59-70 have been canceled, and as a result, the Examiner's rejection is moot.

II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 30, 31, 33-39, 59 and 60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,365,602 issued to Levien (hereinafter "Levien"). To establish an anticipation rejection the Examiner must show that the cited reference teaches each element of a claim.

With respect to claims 1, 2, 4-10, 30, 31, 33-39, 59 and 60, these claims have been canceled. Thus, the Examiner's rejection is moot.

III. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levien in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,359,548 issued to Cooper (hereinafter "Cooper").

In regard to claims 3 and 32, these claims have been canceled. Consequently, the Examiner's rejection is moot.

Claims 11, 12, 14-20, 40, 41, 43-49, 61 and 62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levien in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,129,860 issued to Alvarez, II et al. (hereinafter "Alvarez").

Claims 11, 12, 14-20, 40, 41, 43-49, 61 and 62 have been canceled. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection is moot.

Claims 13, 21, 42 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levien in view of Alvarez in further in view of Cooper.

With respect to claims 13, 21, 42 and 50, these claim have been canceled. Consequently, the Examiner's rejection is moot.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants respectfully acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 22-29 and 51-58 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicants have amended claims 22, 24, 26, 28, 51, 53, 55, and 57 to be in independent form and to include the limitations of each of their respective base claims. In light of the amendments, the Applicants submit that claims 22, 24, 26, 28, 51, 53, 55, and 57 are in condition for allowance. Further, dependent claims 23, 25, 27, 29, 52, 54, 56, and 58 are patentable because each of these claims depends on allowed claims 22, 24, 26, 28, 51, 53, 55, or 57. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 22-29 and 51-58 at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207 3800.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

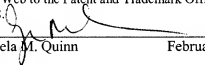
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